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News for Immediate Release

The City of Scranton and Keystone Mission enter into agreement for Keystone Mission to operate the fieldhouse at Weston Field as Emergency Stay-in-Place Shelter for Scranton Residents Experiencing Homelessness

SCRANTON, PA— When temperatures dip to dangerous, below-freezing levels, the City of Scranton works in conjunction with Keystone Mission, a Pennsylvania 501(c) non-profit organization that specializes in providing aid to the area’s homeless population, to turn the fieldhouse at Weston Field Park Complex into an emergency overnight shelter. The City is pleased to extend these accommodations during the unprecedented COVID-19 to protect our most vulnerable population of individuals experiencing homelessness.

The City of Scranton and Keystone Mission, acting through its CEO/Executive Director Justin Behrens, have entered into an agreement allowing Keystone Mission to use the fieldhouse at Weston Field Complex to operate as an emergency Stay-in-Place shelter for up to twenty-five (25) individuals that meet Keystone Mission’s stringent admission requirements. Individuals who meet the admission requirements will be required to shelter-in-place and abide by Keystone Missions guidelines until the declared State of Emergency is lifted. One such requirement is that any individual who leaves the facility after gaining admission will not be allowed back in. Keystone Mission will staff the facility 24 hours a day, provide residents with food and beverage, entertainment, bedding, and hygienic products, and offer case management services.

The City and Keystone Mission’s agreement requires Keystone Mission to indemnify the City against any claim that may arise from Keystone Mission’s operation of the emergency shelter. Keystone Mission’s insurance has agreed to provide the appropriate coverage in this regard.

“The City and Keystone Mission entered into this agreement based on our previously established relationship regarding Weston Field and the success of that relationship. We at the City are grateful that Keystone Mission is working hard to provide an additional shelter for people experiencing homelessness, one of our area’s most at-risk populations, especially during this time of heightened public health risk,” said Mayor Cagnetti. “By serving this vulnerable population, we are further protecting the health of all Scranton residents.”